

## REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 16 currently remain in the application. Claims 9-15 have been withdrawn and are to be canceled upon allowance of the application. Claim 16 is a newly added claim and claim 1 is herein amended.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Yoshizawa with reference to METADI, and claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Kendall.

In view of the cited references and the explanations by the Examiner in said Final Office Action, independent claim 1 is herein amended to more narrowly limit the cluster particles which form the abrading particles of the subject polishing slurry. The additional limitation is supported by the specification (page 8, lines 16-17) and hence is believed to be enterable. Moreover, this additional limitation is believed to overcome the Examiner's rejection for the reasons stated in said Final Office Action.

METADI diamond particles are believed to be particles of natural diamond, METADI catalog including the statement as follows: "METADI Diamond Suspensions are made of virgin, natural diamond, graded for particle size as well as shape". The cluster particles used according to the present invention are artificially created particles having specified structural characteristics which now limit the scope of claim 1. METADI catalog describes nothing other than natural particles and only shows their photographs. There is no mention of artificially obtaining these particles anywhere in METADI catalog.

As for Kendall, there is only a description of an "abrasive article" having a polishing layer with diamond particles bonded by a binder to a backing sheet [0018]. There is no mention of any cluster particles comprising monocrystalline diamond particles, much less cluster particles that are tasseled assemblies of crystalline particles with no directionality or cluster particles that will contact with the target object to be polished and thereby decompose to an appropriate degree.

In summary, amended claim 1 describes the abrading particles of the polishing slurry more narrowly and is therefore believed to overcome the Examiner's rejection by way of the cited references.

Claim 16 is a newly added claim, saying that the cluster particles according to this invention are obtained by an explosion-synthesis method. Although this product claim has the appearance of being limited by a method of its production, diamond particles produced by such an explosion-synthesis method have different structure from naturally found diamond particles. In other words, a person skilled in the art can tell diamond particles thus produced artificially from naturally found diamond particles and hence this way of limiting a product claim is acceptable and hence allowable.

It is therefore believed that the present Amendment is completely responsive to said Final Office Action and hence that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



Keiichi Nishimura  
Registration No. 29,093

December 21, 2006  
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP  
500 12th Street, Suite 200  
Oakland, CA 95607  
Telephone: (510) 663-1100  
Telefax: (510) 663-0920